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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/748,901	12/27/2000	Yukio Otaguro	44471/250913	5236
23370	7590	07/26/2004	EXAMINER	
JOHN S. PRATT, ESQ KILPATRICK STOCKTON, LLP 1100 PEACHTREE STREET ATLANTA, GA 30309			DO, THUAN V	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2825	

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/748,901

Applicant(s)

OTAGURO, YUKIO

Examiner

Thuan Do

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 and 11-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4,8,11,12,14 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,5-7,9,13,15-17 and 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 10 and 20 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 December 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/27/2000.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is responsive to amendment entered on 05/17/2004. Claims 1-9 and 11-19 are pending in this office action as resulted restriction selection.

Applicant is requested to cancel the claims 10 and 20 as non selected claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

2. Claims 1,2,4,8,11,12,14,18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over Scherer et al. Pat. No. 6266803.

Regarding claim 1: Scherer teaches a method comprising:

reading a netlist (col. 6, lines 1-11);

generating connection information including the names of signals, the identification names and the names of pins of instances which include cells, macro blocks and synthesized blocks as described in said netlist (col. 2, lines 42-67, col. 8, lines 15-35 for names of pin and cell identification and synthesis in col. 1, lines 48-58) ;

dividing an area of a chip into two or more regions and determining connection point coordinates for each of said regions by the use of said connection information and locations of said instances as placed (col. 5, lines 40-55) ;

determining a wiring path by the use of said connection point coordinates (col. 5, lines 40-55) ; and

estimating a wire capacitance value and a wire resistance value with reference to said wiring path (col. 2, lines 41-67 where the wire resistance is represented by wire length).

Regarding claim 2: Scherer teaches a method with center coordinates (col. 9, lines 20-25).

Regarding claim 4: Scherer teaches a method with pin coordinates (col. 8, lines 15-35).

Regarding claim 8: Scherer teaches a method with output (col. 2, lines 41-67).

Regarding claims 11,12,14 and 18: These claims teach the features similar to the method of claims 1,2,4 or 8 and rejected in similar manner.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3,5,6,7,9,13,15,16,17,19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The reason for allowance is that the prior art of record does not teach each dependent claim with all other features of corresponding independent claim.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuan Do whose telephone number is 571-272-1891. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew S. Smith can be reached on 571-272-1907. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703 305-3431 for regular communications and 703-305-3431 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0596.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thuan Do". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Thuan Do
Patent examiner
7/19/04